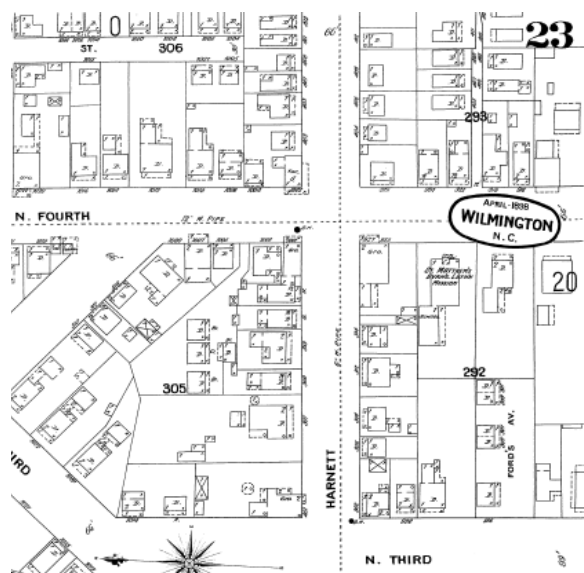


disperse and go home for their own safety. They refused but moved as a group a bit farther away from the corner. Lockamy's inability to disperse the crowd angered the white men at the opposite corner. Lockamy felt he had done all he could in the turf war and went back to his post on Fourth near Brunswick. From this point forward, gunshots rang throughout the city for the next several hours.⁵⁷



April 1898 Sanborn Insurance map of intersection of Fourth and Harnett Streets.

⁵⁷ Just before the election, the Board of Aldermen had instituted a ban on the sale of alcohol to last until 6:00 A.M. on November 10. After riot began, the board met again at 12:50 P.M. at Alderman Morrell's home at 210 N. Sixth Street to continue the ban. Aaron/Alton Lockamy's post was probably at Boesch's grocery at 319 Brunswick, some two blocks away from the site of the first shots. White men who shot at the blacks were at the intersection were S. Hill Terry, George Piner, Theodore Curtis and Sam Matthews. *Contested Election Case*, 341-343; Prather, *We Have Taken a City*, 119; *Evening Dispatch* (Wilmington), November 10, 1898; *Morning Star* (Wilmington), November 11, 1898; *Wilmington Messenger*, November 11, 1898; Minutes of the Board of Aldermen, Town of Wilmington, November 5, 1898, November 10, 1898, State Archives, North Carolina Office of Archives and History, Raleigh; 1897 *Wilmington City Directory*; Hayden, "Introduction to the Wilmington Rebellion," 24-6.

White and black witnesses of the activities at the intersection of Fourth and Harnett both claimed that the other side was the responsible party for firing the first shots. There are conflicting viewpoints on first shots and an affidavit, probably taken by Rountree was used in newspapers to counter accounts from black witnesses such as George H. Davis, a black man wounded at Fourth and Harnett and interviewed by reporter Thomas Clawson for the *Wilmington Messenger*. Lockamy went back and forth between the clusters of whites and blacks on opposing corners at Fourth and Harnett at least two times and later said that the only people on the corner that were armed were whites.⁵⁸

Notwithstanding the point of origin, once the first shot was fired, whites launched a fusillade of bullets towards the blacks near Walker's store. Several black men fell injured, but most were able to get up and run away from the scene. Most accounts agree that three men died instantly at Walker's while two injured men ran around the corner into a home at 411 Harnett. One of these men by the surname of Bizzell died in the house while the other, George H. Davis, was later taken to the hospital on the eleventh. Davis apparently lived at the residence and was wounded in his left thigh and had a bullet lodged between his shoulders. He was found in the house along with a dead black man and three women by reporter Clawson and taken to the hospital on the eleventh. Although Davis recovered, Clawson recalled that after he sent for a white doctor, W. D. MacMillan, and a black doctor, T. R. Mask, he thought that "it appeared impossible for one so desperately wounded ever to recover."⁵⁹ The rest of the men fled west on Harnett,

⁵⁸ *Wilmington Messenger* November 11, 1898; *Contested Election*, 341-342. See note 73 for text of affidavit taken by Rountree.

⁵⁹ Clawson, "Recollections and Memories."